(f) whether there is any proposal to draw up schemes to provide alternative employment to the ex-employees; and

(g) whether Government are aware that the Karnataka Government is willing to extend all help if special employment schemes are being implemented by Government for these ex-employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) was closed with effect from 1st March, 2001 under Section 25(0) of the Industrial Disputes, Act, 1947.

(b) At the time of closure, there were 3580 employees on the rolls of BGML.

(c) and (d) BGML possesses 12095 acres of land at Kolar Gold Fields (KGF). The issue of winding up of the company and liquidation of its assets including land is pending before Hon'ble Company Court, and, as such, there is no proposal to sell these lands by the Government till the decision of the High Court.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Government has no scheme for providing any alternative employment to the ex-employees of BGML.

(g) No, Sir.

Survey of Mineral Deposits in J&K

725. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any seismic surveys to ascertain mineral deposits in J&K;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have drawn any plans to exploit and explore mineral resources in the State during the next three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate Department under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines, has not carried out specific seismic survey to ascertain mineral deposits in Jammu and Kashmir [J&K]. However, GSI has carried out investigations for locating mineral deposits in J&K by conventional methods, *viz.,* surface mapping, detailed mapping, pitting, trenching, geochemical surveys, geophysical surveys (seismic, resistivity), etc.

(b) The state of Jammu and Kashmir is naturally endowed with deposits of coal of tertiary period, the once famous sapphire mines in the Padar area and so far the only known occurrence in the country of native Sulphur and Borax in the Puga valley of Ladakh. Besides huge deposits of Limestone of different industrially exploitable grades, large reserves of good quality Gypsum and Diasporic Bauxite are also available within the state. '

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A programme of national geochemical mapping for locating mineral potential areas and for generating baseline data for understanding chemistry of environment has been launched. Under this programme entire state of J&K is being covered systematically. A programme of regional geochemical mapping in Hanle Area, southeastern part of Ladakh region will be taken up during field season 2004-05.

National Commission for Economically Backward Classes

†726. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Economically Weaker Classes constituted by the previous Government to provide reservation to the economically weaker sections has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.